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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items directly at its plenary meetings. Since 1997, the meetings of the Bureau have been open to all the members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied upon informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee to continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chairman would like to draw the attention of the Special Committee, in particular, to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999, by which the Special Committee was requested to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of the year 2000 to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including resolutions on specific Territories, as well as the intent of the Special Committee to conclude the critical review of its work, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.[1]

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2000/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.[2]

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3. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.[3]

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979 and in the light of past experience and established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session[4] authorizing its Rapporteur to reformulate its decisions into draft decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend to its Rapporteur to continue to follow the format of its report to the General Assembly adopted at the 1999 session of the Special Committee.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Notes

[1] A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 84.

[2] A/46/634/Rev.1.

[3] A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 49.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2000

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) and decision 37/421)	As appropriate
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex))	"
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 54/83)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/84)	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 54/421)	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 54/85)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/86)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 54/87)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 54/88)	"
East Timor	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 54/412)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 54/423)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 54/89)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
St. Helena (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/97, paras. 8 (c) and 14)	"

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific territories
Matters relating to the small Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (c))	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/92)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 38)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 54/248)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, paras. 2-3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, para. 10)	"
Critical review of the work of the Special Committee (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, paras. 84 and 85)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Friday, 18 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
February-March [Number of meetings and dates to be determined]	Continuation of the critical review of the work of the Special Committee
March (2 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Pacific Regional Seminar
Thursday, 25 May (1 meeting)	Observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights
Monday, 5 June (1 meeting)	Question of Gibraltar
	Question of the dissemination of information on decolonization
	Question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
Tuesday-Friday 6-9 June (4 meetings)	Question of Western Sahara
	Question of East Timor
Monday-Thursday 12-15 June (4 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
Monday, 19 June (1 meeting)	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar
Monday-Thursday 26-29 June (4 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Thursday-Friday 6-7 July (2 meetings)	Implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of the recommendations